

# The Professional Marine Communicator

**DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES TO MARINE COMMUNICATIONS**

Editor & Publisher: David J. Ring, Jr., 65 Heywood Avenue, Melrose, MA 02176 Telephone: (617) 665-4704

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**July 1988**

## IOM seeks Alaska to Panama exemption.

**Inter-Ocean Management (IOM)** has requested that the **BROOKS RANGE** and **THOMPSON PASS** be exempted from carrying Radio Officers on their Valdez, Alaska to Puerto Armuelles, Panama route. It is assumed, that like **EXXON**, no Radio Officer will be carried when sailing within 500 miles of the coast. The **MEBA-D2** Radio Officers learned of this from their vessel's representatives who said it was discussed at a recent **SOHIO** conference in Cleveland, Ohio. According to our sources, the

**THOMPSON PASS** and the **BROOKS RANGE** could **not** comply with all provisions of law that would allow the loss of their jobs.

**PROCOMM** notes however that **IOM** removed the Radio Officers on the Tacoma, WA to Anchorage, AK run of the **WESTWARD VENTURE** and the **GREAT LAND**. According to a copy of a letter received by **PROCOMM** from **Mr. Jerry Josephs** of **MEBA D2** to **Mr. Robert Rogers** of **IOM** that, according to Josephs, the "minimum manning" clause in the **IOM-MEBA D2** contract applies, and that the union has **no objections to the removal of the radio officers from those vessels.**

## WMH Closed...

The FCC's Common Carrier Division finally approved the closure of the State of Maryland Department of Transportation Radio Station **WMH** in early May. The State claimed that **WMH** had only a limited range and was not showing a profit. Although many comments were filed against the closing by various Companies, Unions, Radio Officers and other individuals, the FCC said that since the **USCG** now takes responsibility for monitoring 500 KHz, no further requirement for **WMH** existed.

## WOO to stay open.

In a reversal of position by **AT&T**, **Manahawkin Radio**, **WOO** will remain open for 5 to 10 years. **AT&T**, according to **PROCOMM's** sources at **AT&T** had proposed to close the High Seas Station. These sources now confirm that they have a new "lease on life".

In a telephone interview with **AT&T** Product Manager **Peter Scott**, who coordinates the High Seas Radio-telephone Stations, **PROCOMM** learned that **AT&T** would continue operating **WOO** for at least five to ten years. When asked if **AT&T** had filed for closing, **Mr. Scott** said that they had not.

However, according to our sources, this is not true, "AT&T was indeed in the midst of filing for closure when Radio Officers, yachtsmen, boaters and others made such a stink they couldn't".

In any event **WOO** will remain open, at least for a while.

**Flash!** FCC exempted 20 Alaska-US ships on 7/6/88.

# NADN

**This is the Collective Call Sign for all USA Merchant Vessels: When responding to this Call on Traffic Lists, use this Call instead of the Vessel's Assigned Call Sign!**

***We need your news!***

"**PROCOMM**"  
65 Heywood Avenue  
Melrose, MA 01276  
Phone: (617) 665-4704

## Correction(s)...

We apologize to **Mr. Bernard A. Stoller**, of the **American Radio Association-MMP** for the unfortunate misquote concerning the changes in the six months sea service endorsement in our last issue: these changes are only proposed. The FCC will determine if it will adopt these guidelines.

Also, **Commsa San Juan / NMR** in **Puerto Rico** has closed completely, not just on HF as reported in the last issue of **PROCOMM**. Details on this were, unfortunately, just made available to us after we went to print.

**Tampa Radio/WPD**  
now on 17.169.5 kHz.